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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LOHBECK, Wil-**
helmus Christianus Maria [NL/NL]; Volmerlaan 8,
NL-2288 GD Rijswijk (NL). **ZIJSLING, Djurre Hans**
[NL/NL]; Volmerlaan 8, NL-2288 GD Rijswijk (NL).

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(71) Applicant (for AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BE,
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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ
B.V. [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR
The Hague (NL).

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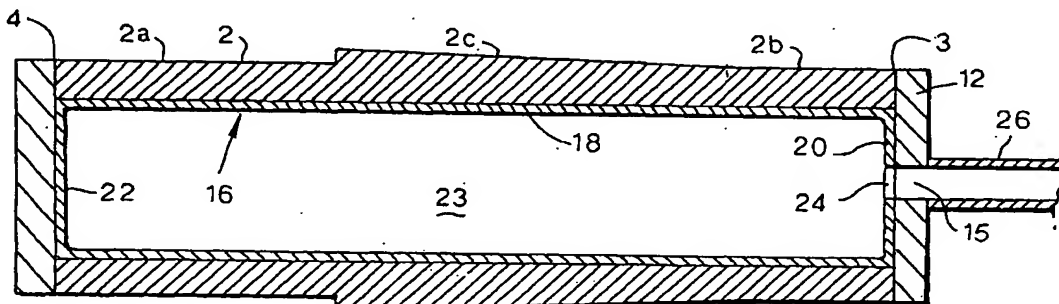
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(71) Applicant (for CA only): **SHELL CANADA LTD**
[CA/CA]; 400 - 4TH Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P
2H5 (CA).

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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: EXPANDER SYSTEM FOR STEPWISE EXPANSION OF A TUBULAR ELEMENT



(57) Abstract: An expander system for radially expanding a tubular element having an unexpanded portion of a first inner' diameter, the expander system including an expander movable between a radially retracted mode and a radially expanded mode, the expander being operable to expand the tubular element from said first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter by movement of the expander from the radially retracted mode to the radially expanded mode thereof, wherein the expander comprises a contact section of a diameter larger than said first inner diameter when the expander is in the radially retracted mode, and wherein said contact section is arranged to prevent axial movement of the expander through the unexpanded portion of the tubular element when the expander is in the radially retracted mode.

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